

"Back to School" Means Increased Town Enforcement Against Landlords of Illegal Off-Campus Student Housing

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Supervisor Ed Romaine presents the Town's new mobile app at a press conference in the Stony Brook Fire Department Sub Station #2.

Supervisor Romaine Launches "First on Long Island" New Mobile Phone App as a Deterrent in Town-wide Fight Against Illegal Multi-Family Housing

Supervisor Announces Revocation of Rental Permit for 150 Christian Avenue

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Ed Romaine (pictured) held a press conference today at the Stony Brook Fire Department Sub Station #2 to announce the launch of a mobile phone app to be used by residents as the newest weapon against illegal multi-family housing and other housing violations. Supervisor Romaine was joined by Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, Town Law Department officials, Bruce Sander, Coordinator of the Stony Brook Concerned Homeowners and residents from the Stony Brook and Setauket communities. This area has been subject to an increase in illegal off-campus student housing in the last year, and as the new school semester begins, the Supervisor provided an update regarding his efforts to crack down against unscrupulous landlords there as well as in other communities throughout the Town of Brookhaven.

Supervisor Romaine also announced that the Rental License for 150 Christian Avenue in Stony Brook has been revoked by the Town. The house, which has been a source of ongoing community complaints and Town of Brookhaven enforcement actions, has been known to be the off-campus residence for at least 14 Stony Brook University students with 14 bedrooms. According to the notice of revocation issued today by the Town's Chief Building Inspector, "The use of the house is not as a one-family dwelling and the conversion of rooms to sleeping rooms without the benefit of a building permit is in violation of Town Code."

Brookhaven Town's new mobile phone app, which is the first of its kind on Long Island, will allow residents to immediately report housing and property violations as they see them, helping to increase enforcement of housing codes within our communities. The app is available now for both Apple iPhones and Android mobile phones. With simple to fill-in fields, drop down menus of violations and automated e-mail, this software application is a powerful weapon in the Town's arsenal for addressing code violations, and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Supervisor Romaine (center) discusses the new mobile app with residents.



To download the free mobile app, residents must visit the Town's website at www.brookhaven.org from a mobile device. A pop up window will appear asking if they want to install the app. By clicking "yes," they are directed to the market place where the app can be downloaded. It's easy and takes only seconds to complete the download.

Supervisor Romaine said, "Illegal multi-family housing and other property violations are a threat to nearly every neighborhood and residents need to be vigilant. This new mobile phone app provides a direct line right at your fingertips into our Law and Building departments so we can take swift action when a complaint is filed. I urge

everyone to download the app and help us in the fight against those who violate our Town Codes."

"I support and applaud any means that assist our homeowners in fighting against illegal boarding houses. It is crucial for our Town of Brookhaven to keep enforcement of our zoning codes at a high level. Our Law investigators must continue to be provided with adequate resources so that they are able to step up to the increasing workload and provide the evidence for district court enforcement and Supreme Court action against these unscrupulous landlords who would profiteer on our communities lost quality of life. I'm proud that our community has galvanized under the leadership of the Stony Brook Concerned Homeowners and taken a stand against the conduct of these landlords," says Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld, who has worked with Supervisor Romaine, and the Law and Building Departments on code amendments to stop the blight of illegal boarding houses.

Supervisor Romaine also updated the community about several policy changes. These include providing copies of new housing codes to landlords and real estate agents, and changes to the Town website regarding rental properties.

- No rental permits or rental registrations should be issued to the applicant/landlords if there are any outstanding violations on the property in questions. Rental permits or registrations should only be issued after all outstanding violations are cleared up.
- At the time that landlords apply for a rental permit as part of the permit application, the landlord/applicant will be given a copy of all applicable town codes relating to rental regulations. They will also have to sign and acknowledge that they have been given a copy of the codes and will have to comply with them. Furthermore, failure to comply with the codes will result in immediate revocation of any rental permit.
- The names and addresses of landlords having rental permits will be on the Town website, listing their permit number and expiration date.

"I will continue to review our housing codes and work with the Law and Building departments to strengthen the Town's position as we increase our efforts to crack down on violators. With these changes, the mobile phone app and the cooperation of our residents, we can clean up Brookhaven Town and improve the quality of life for everyone," added Supervisor Romaine.

Residents can also call 451-TOWN between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:30 pm to report housing violations. For more information or to access the Town's Code Book, go to www.brookhaven.org.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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